

16 December 2024

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Planning Policy Team
Civic Centre
44 York Street
Twickenham
TW1 3BZ

Dear Officers

Discharge of Conditions | Carbon Garden planning permission ref. 23/3086/FUL, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

On behalf of Royal Botanic Garden, Kew (RBGK), we enclose an application to discharge two conditions associated with the planning permission (ref: 23/3086/FUL), which was approved on 4 March 2024 for the creation of a new Pavilion structure and the associated re-landscaping to form a new 'Carbon Cycle' Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Specifically, this application seeks to discharge the following:

- **Condition U0176270** - Hard and Soft Landscaping
- **Condition U0176272** - Ecological Enhancement

This application has been submitted via the planning portal (ref: PP-13628082). An application form is submitted, together with the relevant information to support the discharge of the conditions (as identified below). The relevant application fee of £215 (inc. £70 Planning Portal admin fee) has also been submitted.

Application background

The approved Carbon Garden at RBGK will explain the role of carbon in nature, where it is found, how it moves through the ecosystem and what can be done to reduce carbon emissions and improve carbon sequestration. Carefully curated planting will illustrate biodiversity in the wild, as well as gardens, a range of climate resilient trees, and features explaining the importance of soil in carbon sequestration and how fossil fuels are formed. Throughout the garden will be information about the research that is being carried out at Kew and Wakehurst, to help visitors better understand carbon in the landscape and how it influences the environment in which we live.

In summary, the proposal comprises two primary elements:

1. A new Climate Change Pavilion on the existing paved area; and
2. Re-landscaping of the existing Secluded Garden around the Pavilion.

The above will form a new area known as the Carbon Garden, a beautiful, inspiring and insightful new garden for visitors to enjoy and learn from.

Two pre-commencement conditions (condition U0176268 - Construction Ecological Management Plan and condition U0176273 – Archaeology) have already been discharged under approval notice ref. 23/3086/DD01 dated 2 December 2024.

Details of the conditions

This current application seeks to discharge the following conditions associated with the above decision:

Hard and Soft Landscaping Works (Plan) | Condition U0176270 states that:

Prior to above ground works, full details of both hard and soft landscaping works must be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority thereafter implemented in accordance with these details.

These details shall include:

(A) Hard landscape works shall include:

- 1. Proposed finished levels or contours*
- 2. Other vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation areas.*
- 3. Hard surfacing materials; hard surface construction and drainage.*
- 4. Proposed and existing utility services above and below ground (e.g. drainage, power, communications cables, pipelines etc, indicating lines, manholes, supports etc).*
- 5. A program or timetable of the proposed works*

(B) Soft landscape works shall include:

- 1. Full Planting Plans in context with the development.*
- 2. Written specifications (including cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment).*
- 3. Plans and written specifications shall detail the quantity, density, size, species, position and the proposed time or programme of planting of all shrubs, hedges, grasses etc, together with an indication of how they integrate with the proposal in the long term with regard to their mature size and anticipated routine maintenance.*
- 4. All tree, shrub and hedge planting included within that specification shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3936:1986 (parts 1, 1992, Nursery Stock, Specification for trees and shrubs, and 4, 1984, Specification for forest trees); BS 4043: 1989, Transplanting root-balled trees; and BS 4428:1989, Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces).*
- 5. A habitat management plan for the site as per para 8.1.5 of the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Services Ecology Report (dated 20th September 2023).*

Reason: To ensure that the proposed development does not prejudice the appearance of the locality and to preserve and enhance nature conservation interests.

The following documents / plans are submitted in support of this condition:

- Existing Levels and Services Plan (ref. RBG-24-007-001)
- Soft and Hard Landscape Plans – Landscape Planting and Maintenance
- Hard Landscape Plan (ref. RBG-24-007-104 Rev T1)

These documents / plans contain the full range of details as requested in the condition wording and are therefore considered to be sufficient to discharge the condition.

Ecological Enhancement | Condition U0176272 states:

Prior to above ground works, an ecological enhancement scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

(A) These details shall:

- 1. Follow the recommendations of table 23 of the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Services Ecology Report (dated 20th September 2023)*
- 2. Include removal/control of non-native invasive species within the area, through a treatment plan*

(B) Details should include

- 1. specific location (including proposed aspect and height) on a plan in context with the development.*
- 2. specific product/dimensions*
- 3. proposed maintenance.*

The development shall not be occupied until the corresponding approved details have been implemented in full, unless previously agreed in writing with the local planning authority.

Reason: To enhance nature conservation interest.

An Ecological Enhancement Scheme has been prepared by RBGK which confirms that the recommendations as set out within the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Services Ecology Report (dated 20th September 2023) will be followed. Regarding the control of non-native invasive species, the document confirms that the site is maintained as a garden by RBGK at present so there are few invasive non-native species. If any do exist, they are removed on a regular basis by manual weeding, and will continue to be removed as part of the maintenance of the new landscape.

The document further sets out measures of the proposed ecological enhancement features, including their locations (see plan on page 6), specific products and their dimensions, and details of their maintenance. This information is therefore considered to be sufficient to discharge the condition.

If you have any questions on any of the enclosed information, please contact lindsay@theplanninglab.com.

Yours faithfully

The Planning Lab